

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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By JK/mmg, NARS, Date 1/31/78

CUBA - LA VIEWS ON NEXT STEP

LA DELS AWAITING WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION AND NATURALLY DISPLAY
EQUAL CURIOSITY TOWARD OUTCOME U THANT CONVERSATIONS IN
CUBA.

MEANING OF RUSSIAN WITHDRAWAL, US GUARANTEES AGAINST INVASION
AND UN PARTICIPATION IN CUBAN CRISIS ARE RAISING INTEREST-
ING DIVERGENCES OF SPECULATIVE VIEWS. ONE VIEW IS THAT
SITUATION MAY NOW BE REGARDED AS SIMILAR TO THAT JUST PRIOR
TO INFORMAL MEM WASH THAT WE MUST BEGIN ALL OVER AGAIN;
THAT CASTRO HAS ACTUALLY GAINED BY OBTAINING GUARANTEES
AGAINST INVASION AND CAN NOW DEVOTE TO ECONOMIC RE-
CONSTRUCTION OF CUBAN RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY DEVOTED TO
MILITARY DEFENSE. SECOND GROUP BELIEVES CASTRO HAS LOST
GREATLY IN PRESTIGE OWING TO RUSSIAN APPARENT DISREGARD
HIS OPINIONS. WHOLE INCIDENT REVEALING CASTRO PURELY AS
PUPPET.

WIDE FEELING NEVERTHELESS THAT CUBAN PROBLEM REMAINS WITH US
EVEN THOUGH INCIDENT OF MISSILE THREAT HAS BEEN REMOVED.

DIVERGENCE OF OPINION EXISTS AS TO WHETHER THIS THE TIME TO
CRACK DOWN ON CASTRO AND ASSURE HIS OVERTHROW OR WHETHER
PERSONAL POPULARITY OF CASTRO WILL SURVIVE EVEN THIS BLOW
AND THAT PERHAPS WHILE HE IS "DOWN AND OUT" VIS-A-VIS RUSSIA
SUPPORT ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO REFORM HIM AND GET LOST
SHEEP BACK INTO FOLD WITH CONSEQUENT REPARTICIPATION OF
CUBA IN OAS.

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-2- 1613, NOVEMBER 2, 7 PM, FROM NEW YORK

IDEAS CANNOT YET BE SAID TO HAVE JELLED BUT NEXT STEP IN CUBA AND MEANING OF UN ACTION FOR OAS SYSTEM SUBJECT OF WIDE AND SEARCHING INFORMAL INQUIRES BY LA DELS.

IN ANY EVENT NOTICEABLE INTEREST LATINOS SEEK OUT AND HEAR US VIEWS THIS AND RELATED SUBJECT. URUGUAYAN REP STATED US PRESTIGE NEVER HIGHER. THESE ATTITUDES IF ANYTHING HOWEVER INCREASE STAKES AND IMPORTANCE MAKING RIGHT DECISION ON NEXT STEP COVERING WHOLE SCOPE OF OUR POST-MISSILE DISMANTLING CUBAN RELATIONSHIPS.

STEVENSON

COT

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